



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Contemporary Problems of Ontology	

Lecturer(s):	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: prof. dr. Kristupas Sabolius	Faculty of Philosophy, Institute of Philosophy
Other(s):	

Study cycle	Level of the course unit (module)	Type of the course unit (module)
First		Mandatory

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when the course unit is delivered	Language of instruction
Face-to-face	Spring semester	Lithuanian

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: None	Additional requirements (if any): None

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Individual work
5	132	48	84

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
<p>The aim of the course is to acquaint students with the most fundamental problems of modern ontology and their dominant solutions, taking into account the specifics of contemporary continental philosophy. It is also aimed to develop students' critical and analytical thinking, consistency of thinking, as well as the ability to understand methods of argumentation and critically evaluate arguments in academic and everyday discourses.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asking questions, formulating a thesis, arguing one's position, looking for appropriate solutions by analyzing complex and controversial problems. - Analyzing and critically evaluating the surrounding environment, reflecting on one's activities, recognize deep problems, looking for ways to solve problems. - Being able to find solutions in areas that require creative thinking. - Formulating certain thought clearly and logically, argue and justify it during a discussion. - Understanding discourse and horizon of contemporary philosophy in selected areas. - Being able to raise questions and search for answers in order to understand the 	<p>Lectures, seminars, consultations (contact and online), independent work with literature.</p>	<p>Written exam and essay. Students' familiarity with course topics during examinations is evaluated from 1 (very bad) to 10 (excellent) points.</p>

origin and development of contemporary challenges.		
- Being able to use philosophical terminology, independently analyze and interpret philosophical texts.		
- Being able to analyze and evaluate scientific, cultural and social phenomena from a philosophical perspective.		

Course content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours						Individual work: time and assignments		
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work placement	Contacts hours	Individual work	Assignments
1. Introduction. The Origins of ontology	6						6	12	
2. The problem of individuation	4		2				6	10	Seminar text: Simondon, Gilbert. 2020, Individuation in light of notions of form and information., p. 1-20
3. Virtuality and potentiality	4		2				6	10	Deleuze. Bergsonism, p. 37-49.
4. Specters and hauntology	4		2				6	10	Seminar text: Meillassoux, Quentin. 2008, Spectral Dilemma, p. 261-276
5. Speculative realisms, materialisms, object-oriented ontology	4		2				6	10	Meillassoux, Quentin. 2008, After Finitude, p. 1-27.
6. Agential realism	4		2				6	10	Seminar text: Barad, Karen. 2007 Meeting the Universe Halfway: Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning, p 132-185
7. Impotentiality	4		2				6	10	Seminar text: Agamben, Giorgio. 1999. Potentialities, p. 177-184.
8. Plasticity	4		2				6	10	Seminar text: Malabou, Catherine. 2008. What Should We Do with Our Brain? p. 1-54.
Total	34		14				48	84	

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Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Cumulative evaluation:			
Examination	60%		<p>Good orientation in the subject matter; well acquainted with the sources, clearly understands the key concepts, theses, and arguments; presents smoothly and consistently – from 4 to 5 points.</p> <p>Recognizes common issues, understands common theses and arguments, presents consistently – from 1 to 3 points.</p>
Seminar work	20%		Cumulative grade. The method of grade cumulation will depend on the number of students choosing the course. Demonstration of knowledge and competence, creativity in analyzing, explaining, and solving problems will be evaluated.
Presentation during seminar work	20%		<p>Presentation of the assigned/selected part of the text.</p> <p>Recognizes key concepts and theses – 1 point.</p> <p>Recognizes key concepts and theses, presents the development of the text's argumentation – 2 points.</p> <p>Presents key issues, main theses, and arguments, delivers consistently, informatively, formulates essential questions – 3 points.</p>

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Required reading				
Agamben, G.	1999	<i>Potentialities</i>		Stanford: Stanford University Press.
Barad, K.	2007	<i>Meeting the Universe Halfway: Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning</i>		Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press.
Deleuze, G.	1997	<i>Bergsonism</i>		New York: Zone Books
Malabou, C.	2008	<i>What Should We Do with Our Brain? 55-82</i>		New York: Fordham University Press
Meillassoux, Q.	2008	<i>After Finitude: An Essay on the Necessity of Contingency.</i>		London: Continuum
Meillassoux, Q.	2008	<i>Spectral Dilemma. In: Collapse IV. 261-276</i>		London: Urbanomic
Simondon, G.	2020	<i>Individuation in Light of Notions of Form and Information</i>		University of Minnesota Press
Optional reading				
Badiou, A.	2004	<i>Theoretical Writings. (Section I. Ontology is Mathematics)</i>		London, New York: Continuum

Brassier, R.	2007	<i>Nihil Unbound: Enlightenment and Extinction.</i>	London: Palgrave Macmillan
Brassier Ray	2007	<i>The Enigma of Realism.</i> In: Collapse II: Speculative Realism.	London: Urbanomic
ed. Bryant, L., Srnicek, N., Harman, G.	2011	<i>The Speculative Turn: Continental Materialism and Realism</i>	Melbourne: re.press
Derrida, J.	1993	<i>Spectres de Marx</i>	Paris: Galilée
Graham, H.	2002	<i>Tool-Being: Heidegger and the Metaphysics of Objects</i>	Chicago: Open Court
Graham, H.	2005	<i>Guerilla Metaphysics: Phenomenology and the Carpentry of Things</i>	Chicago: Open Court
Graham, H.	2010	<i>Towards Speculative Realism: Essays and Lectures.</i>	Winchester: Zero Books
Graham, H.	2010	<i>Circus Philosophicus</i>	Winchester: Zero Books
Graham, H.	2011	<i>The Quadruple Object</i>	Winchester: Zero Books
Graham, H.	2011	<i>Quentin Meillassoux: Philosophy in the Making</i>	Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press
Graham, H.	2007	<i>Subtraction and Contraction: Deleuze, Immanence and Matter and Memory.</i> In: Collapse III: Unknown Deleuze	London: Urbanomic
Malabou, C.	2012	<i>Ontology of the Accident: An Essay on Destructive Plasticity</i>	Cambridge: Polity Press
Meillassoux, Q.	2007	<i>Potentiality and Virtuality.</i> In: Collapse II: Speculative Realism, 55-81.	London: Urbanomic
Negarestani, R.	2018	<i>Intelligence and Spirit</i>	Falmouth: Urbanomic
Sabotius, K.	2020	<i>Reality, determination, imagination</i>	Open philosophy: Imagination and potentiality: the quest for the real. Warsaw : De Gruyter. 2020, vol. 3, iss. 1, p. 611-624. eISSN 2543-8875
Wolfendale, P.	2019	<i>Object-Oriented Philosophy: The Noumenon's New Clothes. (What is Metaphysics Anyway? 299-325)</i>	Falmouth: Urbanomic
Zizek, S.	2008	<i>For They Know Not What They Do</i>	London, New York: Verso Books